AN ACT

FOR

The better Propagation and Preaching of the

GOSPEL

IN

WALES,

And redreſs of ſome Grievances.

Die Veneris, 22° Februarii, 1649.

ORdered by the Parliament, That this Act be forthwith printed and publiſhed.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

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The better Propagation and Preaching of the

GOSPEL

In WALES, and redreſs of ſome Grievances.

THe Parliament of England taking into their ſerious conſideration the great Duty and Truſt that lies on them to uſe all lawful Ways and Means for the Propagation of the Goſpel of Jeſus Chriſt in this Commonwealth, in order thereunto, Do Enact and Ordain, and be it Enacted and Ordained by this preſent Parliament, and by the Authority thereof, That Col: Thomas Harriſon, Col: Philip Jones, Col: John Jones, Sir John Trevor Knight, Henry Herbert Eſq; William Herbert, William Packer, William Blethin, Chriſtopher Catchmay, Reece Williams, John Nicholas, Edward Herbert, Robert Jones, Buſſey Manſel, Edward Prichard, John Price, Rowland Dawkins, William Boteler, Edward Stradling, John Herbert, Richard Jones, Jenkin Frainlyn, John James, Wroth Rogers, John Herring, Stephen Winthrop, Eſqs; Sir Eraſmus Philips, Sampſon Lort, Henry Williams, Silvanus Taylor, Richard King, John Williams, John Dancy, Thomas Watkins, James Philips, John Lewis, William Barbar, Eſqs; John

Daniel, John Bowen **Gent.** John Puleſton **one of the Juſtices of the Court of Common Pleas,** Humphrey Mackworth, William Littleton, Robert Duckenfield, Thomas Baker, Hugh Price, Evan Lloyd, Richard Price, Robert Griffith, Edward Owens, George Twiſleton, John Carter, Thomas Maſon, Lighton Owens, Rice Vaughan, Thomas Ball, Hugh Courtney, Edward Taylor, Roger Soutley, **Eſqs;** Daniel Lloyd, David Moris, William Wynne, **Gentlemen;** Thomas Swift **Eſq;** Hugh Prichard **Gent.** John Sadler, John Peck, Luke Lloyd, Andrew Ellis, Ralph Crechley, **Eſqs;** Lewis Price **of** Llannoonog, Henry Williams, John Brown, **Gent. are hereby conſtituted and appointed to be Commiſſioners in the Counties of** Montgomery, Denbigh, Flint, Carnarvan, Merioneth, Angleſey, Monmouth, Glamorgan, Pembroke, Carmarthen, Cardigan, Brecknock **and** Radnor, **and every of them, to put in execution the ſeveral powers and authorities herein hereafter mentioned & directed (that is to ſay) That they the ſaid Commiſſioners or any five or more of them, ſhall have full power and authority, and are hereby enabled & authorized to receive all articles or Charges which ſhall be exhibited againſt any Parſon, Vicar, Curate, Schoolmaſter, or any other now having, or that ſhall have any Eccleſiaſtical benefit or promotion within the ſaid counties or any of them, for any Delinquency, Scandal, Malignancy, or** non-**Reſidency; and upon ſuch Articles ſo exhibited, to grant out Warrants in Writing under the Hands and Seals of the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any five or more of them, to be directed to the party againſt whom ſuch Articles ſhall be exhibited, requiring his appearance before ſuch Commiſſioners, at a certain day and place in the ſaid Warrant mentioned, to anſwer the ſaid Charge or Articles reſpectively; and after notice of the ſaid Warrant perſonally made**

or given to the said party Articled against, or left at his dwelling House or ordinary place of abode, and that notice proved by Oath to be made by the space of ten days before the day of appearance in the said Warrant mentioned (no just Cause being made and proved to excuse the not appearing) and likewise after answer made by such as shall appear according to summons, Then the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, are hereby enabled and authorized to proceed to examination of Witnesses upon Oath; the said Examinations and Depositions of such Witnesses to be put in Writing, as well on the behalf of the Commonwealth to prove such Charges and Articles, as on the behalf of the parties articled against to make good their Answers; which Oathes the said Commissioners, or any two or more of them, have hereby power to administer: And after due examination and proof made by confession of the party complained of, or by the Oath of two credible Witnesses, actually to amove, discharge and eject all such Ministers and other persons from their respective Cures, Benefices, Places and Charges, as they the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, upon such hearing shall adjudge to be guilty of any the Crimes aforesaid, in the said Articles contained and comprised; and after such Judgement given, in case any person shall finde himself agrieved with such Judgement so given, Then it shal and may be lawful to and for any twelve or more of the said Commissioners, upon Petition preferred to them by the party grieved, to review, examine and reverse the same, if they or the greater part of them see just cause so to do: And if notwithstanding the said ejected person shall not finde relief within six Weeks after his Petition so preferred, Then the

said

ſaid Commiſsioners, or any five or more of them, ſhall at the requeſt of the parties agrieved reſpectively, certifie the reſpective Proceedings and Proofs in ſuch caſes reſpectively, to the Committee of Parliament for Plundred Miniſters; who are hereby authorized, upon the return of ſuch Certificates, and view of ſuch Proceedings and Proofs, without further examination of Witneſſes in ſuch caſes, to examine the Grounds of the ſaid reſpective Judgements appealed from, and to affirm or revoke the ſame, as they ſhall finde it moſt agreeable to Juſtice, and the tenor of this Act. And be it further Enacted and Declared, That the ſaid Commiſsioners or any five or more of them, have hereby power and authority to allow the Wife and Children of ſuch Miniſter or Miniſters ſo ejected and amoved, for their maintenance, a proportion not exceeding a fifth part of the Living, Parſonage, Benefice, Vicarage, Charge or other place, out of which the ſaid Miniſters ſhall be reſpectively removed (all Pariſh Charges, Publique Tares, and other Duties being firſt deducted out of the Whole.) And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Parſon or Vicar holdeth or enjoyeth, or which ſhall hold or enjoy plurality of Benefices or Eccleſiaſtical Promotions (one or more of which being within the Counties aforeſaid) and upon a Warrant directed to him under the Hands of the ſaid Commiſsioners or any five of them, requiring him at a certain day and place in the ſaid Warrant mentioned, to make choice and elect which of the ſaid Benefices and Eccleſiaſtical Promotions he deſires to hold; and upon notice of the ſaid Warrant, ſhall not within forty days after the ſaid notice, make his Election, teſtified under his Hand before five

or

or more of the said Commissioners, which of the said Benefices or Promotions he desires to hold, then from and after such default (no just cause being proved to excuse the same) all his right, title or interest in and to all such Benefices and Promotions to cease, determine and be utterly void. And to the end that godly and painful men, of able gifts and knowledge for the work of the Ministery, and of approved conversation for Piety, may be imployed to preach the Gospel in the counties aforesaid (which heretofore abounded in Ignorance and Prophaneness) And that fit persons of approved Piety and Learning, may have encouragement to employ themselves in the education of Children in Piety and good literature, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, be and are authorized and enabled to grant Certificates by way of approbation to such persons as shall be recommended and approved of by Henry VValter, VValter Cradock, Richard Simonds, Roger Charnock, Jenkin Lloid, Morris Bidwel, David VValter, VVilliam Seaborn, Edmond Ellis, Jenkin Jones, George Robinson, Richard Powel, Robert Powel, Thomas Ewen, John Miles, Oliver Thomas, Doctor John Ellis, Ambrose Moston, Stephen Lewis, Morgan Lloid, VVilliam Jones, Richard Edwards, Vavosor Powel, Richard Swain, Rowland Nevet, Ministers of the Gospel, or any five or more of them, for the preaching of the Gospel in the said Counties, as well in setled Congregations and Parochial Charges, as in an Itinerary course, as the said Commissioners (by the advice of such the said Ministers as shall recommend and approve of the said persons respectively) shall adjudge to be most for the advancement of the Gospel, or for the keeping of

Schools,

Schools, and education of Children: And to the end that a fitting maintenance may be provided for such persons as shall be so recommended and approved of, as also for such others approvedly godly and painful Ministers now residing within the said Counties, for whose support and maintenance there is little or no settlement made or provided; Be it therefore Enacted and Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That in order to the said maintenance, and in the regulating, ordering and disposal thereof, they the said Commissioners, or any twelve or more of them, are hereby authorized and enabled by themselves, or others deriving authority from them, to receive and dispose of all and singular the Rents, Issues and Profits of all and every the Rectories, Vicarages, Donatives, sine Cura's, Portion of Tenths, and other Ecclesiastical Livings, which now are, or hereafter shall be in the disposing of the Parliament, or any other deriving Authority from them; as also to receive and dispose of the Rents, Issues and Profits of all Impropriations and Gleab-lands within the said Counties, which now are, or hereafter shall be under Sequestration, or in the disposal of the Parliament, by vertue of any former Statute, or any Act or Ordinance of this present Parliament. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any twelve or more of them, shall and may out of the said Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Rectories, Vicarages, Donatives, sine Cura's, Portion of Tenths, and other Ecclesiastical Promotions; as also out of the Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Impropriations and Gleab-lands, order and appoint a constant yearly maintenance for such persons as

as shall be recommended and approved of as aforesaid, for the Work of the Ministery, or the education of Children; as also for such other Ministers as aforesaid, now residing within the said Counties; provided that the yearly maintenance of a Minister do not exceed One hundred pounds, and the yearly maintenance of a School-master exceed not Forty pounds; and that godly Ministers (who have or shall have Wife or Children, may not too much be taken off from their duties in the Ministery, with the care and consideration of maintenance for their Wives and Children after their decease, but that some care thereof may be had by others, whereby a greater encouragement may be given to them to set themselves the closer to the Work of the said Ministery; Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any twelve or more of them, are hereby enabled and authorized to make such yearly allowance to the Wife and Children of such godly Minister after his decease, as to the said Commissioners or any twelve of them shall seem reasonable, for the necessary support and maintenance of the said Wife or Children, or any of them; Provided allways, That such allowance so to be made to such Wife and Children, do not exceed the yearly sum of thirty pounds: And if any person or persons being Tenant or Occupier of any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, lyable and subject to the payment of any Tenths or other Duties, in right payable or belonging to any Parsonage, Vicarage, or any the abovesaid Ecclesiastical Promotions, shall refuse payment thereof, Then the said Commissioners or any two or more of them, are hereby authorized and enabled to put in execution against every person and persons so refusing, the

powers and authorities vested and setled by this present Parliament in the Justices of the Peace, for the relief of Ministers from whom such Tenths and Duties are detained and substracted. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners or any twelve or more of them, out of the said Tenths, Rents and Profits by them receivable by force of this Act, shall and may allow such moderate Salary or Wages to such person or persons who shall be imployed in the receiving, keeping and disposal thereof, or any part thereof, as they shall conceive to be necessary and reasonable. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every person and persons qualified and approved of as abovesaid, for the preaching of the Gospel as aforesaid, who shall be vested and setled by the said Commissioners or any twelve or more of them, in any Rectory, Vicarage or Parochial Charge, which the said Commissioners or any twelve or more of them have hereby power to do, shall be deemed and adjudged to be seized of the same, as fully and amply, to all intents and purposes, as if such person and persons were presented, instituted and inducted to and in the same, according to former Laws in such cases used and provided. And whereas the remoteness of the said Counties from the Courts of Justice at Westminster, occasioneth many acts of high Mildemeanors, Oppression and Injury to be committed there, which often-times escape unpunished, and the parties agrieved thereby, for want of means to seek relief by due course of Law, left remediless; To the end therefore that such Mildemeanors, Oppressions and Injuries may the better be enquired after, and the parties grieved thereby,

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without much expence of moneys or loss of time, may be in some Way of relief, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners or any five or more of them, shall have, and hereby have full Power and Authority to receive all Complaints which shall be brought before them, of any such Misdemeanors, Oppression or Injury, committed by any person or persons within the said Counties or any of them; and by Warrant directed to the party complained of, under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners or any five or more of them, to appear before them at a certain day and place in the said Warrant mentioned, requiring an Answer to the said Complaints; and after answer made, then with the consent of both parties, testifie under their Hands and Seals, to proceed to hear and determine the same. And whereas sufferings of that nature generally fall upon persons Well-affected to the Parliament, and such as have acted in and for their service; which said persons are not of ability to travel to London, to be relieved by the Committee of Parliament, commonly called The Committee of Indempnity, Be it therefore Enacted and Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners or any five or more of them, shall be, and are hereby made and constituted a Committee of Indempnity, to all intents and purposes, within the Counties aforesaid, for the hearing and determining of all matters and things properly relievable and determinable by the said Committee of Indempnity. Provided always, That if any person or persons shall finde him or themselves agrieved at the proceedings of the said Commissioners, acting as a Committee of Indempnity,

dempnity, then the ſaid perſon or perſons ſo agrieved, ſhall and may proſecute his and their Petition or Appeal for relief, in ſuch maner and form as in and by this Act is preſcribed in the caſes of ejected Miniſters, and bring the ſame to a final determination, before the ſaid Committee of Indempnity ſitting at Weſtminſter; which ſaid Committee are hereby authorized to hear and determine the ſame, as they ſhall ſee juſt cauſe. And be it further Enacted, That all Power and Authority formerly veſted in any Committee within the ſaid Counties or any of them, for the placing of Miniſters in Eccleſiaſtical Livings or Promotions, be from henceforth determined: And that no perſon or perſons ſhall be from henceforth veſted and ſetled in any Rectory, Vicarage or Eccleſiaſtical Promotion within any of the ſaid Counties, unleſs ſuch perſon or perſons ſo to be veſted or ſetled, be recommended and approved of for the work of the Miniſtery, according to the tenor and true meaning of this Act: And that this Act ſhall continue and be in force for the ſpace of Three years, from the Five and twentieth day of March, One thouſand ſix hundred and fifty, and no longer.

Die Veneris, 22 Februarii, 1649.

ORdered by the Parliament, That this Act be forthwith printed and publiſhed.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.